PAPERS
OF
SHAKERS
192
OHIO
Union Village

Anna Ervin's Book.

March 23 1823.

Covenant Hymn.

1st Come all ye souls who truly are
Called by the gospel in this day
+ To follow Christ and thus declare, + That you have found his right[way]
Can this be true I'm sure it can
For Christ has come to dwell with man

2nd O can you now fulfil your call
And never flinch to bear the cross
And will you join in love with all
Thats purging out the filthy dross
Indeed I can indeed I will
That Christ my soul with love may fill

3rd Is it your faith the cross to bear
And count all else as false and vain
Will you be faithful to prepare
A place on earth for Christ to reign
Yea sure it is and sure I will
For Christ doe reign on Zions hill

4th Can you make known your blessed faith
By your own works of righteousness
Will you be true to him that saith

That every tongue shall thus confess
Yea if I will I know I can
And all that's free may say amen

6th Is it your faith now to increase
And persevere in outward things
And will it be your daily feast
To share the blessing that it brings
It is my faith to persevere
That of these blessings I may share

6th Can you now feel it just and right
For you to sign this covenant
Will you do it with pure delight
And with your own free will consent
I can do it with my own choice
And all that can may now rejoice

7th Is it your faith that this contains
The orders that are in the Church
And can you murmur or complain
While you can prove your faith by works
It is my faith I'll not be found
A murmurer on this righteous ground

8th Will you keep up the inward work
The true work of self denial
Will you be faithful not a shirk
But stand the firey trial
Indeed I will keep up the work
That I may be no fleshly lurk.
9th Is it your faith to be subject
In every place you are called in
Will you be cheerful and respect
All those who strive to purge out sin
Yea true it is and true I will
Now join and take the purging pill
10th Can you devote body and soul
And in your calling be resigned
And let your faith be your controle
To be good soldiers just and kind
True if I will I truly can
So all that will can say amen
11th Is it your faith to take your share
And do your duty with your hands
Will you be faithful in your care
That with your head your union stands

It fully is & freely will
My able share I will fulfill
12th Come lovely souls and take your share
Of all the heavenly blessings
This heavenly will does now prepare
For the souls thats it professing
Your welcome souls forevermore
To share the blessings of your store.

The little Morsel.

Come little children now you may
Partake a little morsel
For little gift and simple play
Adorns the great Apostle
A little drop of Mothers love
Will make a feast of union
& is by little steps we move
Into a strong communion
2 A little faith does mighty deeds
Route post all my recounting
Faith like a grain of mustard seed
Can move a lofty Mountain

A little charity and Zeal
A little tribulation
A little patience makes me feel
A little great peace and consolation

3 A little cross with cheerfulness
A little self denial
Will serve to make our feelings less
And bear the greatest trial
The spirit like a little dove
O Jesus once descended
To show his meekness and his love
This emblem was intended

4 The lowly title of a Lamb
Unto our Lord was given
Such was our Saviours humble name
Though Lord of earth and heaven
A little voice that small and still
Will rule the new creation
A little stone the earth shall fill
And humble every nation

1st Ye Children of Zion come hear what we say
Ye are call,d by the gospel in this latter day
That when we your Parents have finished our race
Ye may be prepared to fill up our place
2nd We love you sincerely and we would rejoice
To find that the gospel was your happy choice
For this is our object in all that we do
That Christ and salvation may shine forth in you
3d How long O ye simple shall we be in pain
To see you so careless so trifling and vain
O foolish young people when will you be wise
To set out in earnest and run for the prize

4th It is not sufficient your sins to confess
The passions of nature ye have to suppress
And now it is for you while tender and young
To learn true obedience and bridle the tongue
5th The order that's taught you if ye will subject
From sin and temptation your Souls will protect
But if ye will wickedly rise and rebel
That reprobate spirit will drag you to hell
6th O thou disobedient and obstinate wretch
How durst thou give way such a spirit to catch
To join with the Devil and his hellish brood
And give up your union to all that is good
7th Such unruly spirits we jointly reject
And those who will harbor there we shall correct
So children we mean to be pointed and plain
That godly subjection we have to maintain
8th The blessings of heirship the immortal crown
Is now set before you if ye will come down
Come down O ye simple come down while ye may
And share in the blessings of this latter day.

A Letter of Elder James Whittakers to his relations in England.

I have wrote to you in answer to a letter you wrote to me last winter; wherein I have signified my mind partly to you: it remains now that I declare unto you my whole heart; which I cannot tell at present, but it will be a final close between you and me thro, time and eternity. Flattering titles I am not about to use towards you or soothe you with lies but with the truth will I come forth whether you hear or whether you forbear: be not so unwise as the scribes and phariseas; who said to Christ thou bearest record of thy self thy record is not true while I testify unto you what God has done for my Soul: blessed be God forevermore who has seperated me from my Mothers womb and made me a minister of the Gospel in the day of Christs second appearance, all earthly profits and pleasures; all earthly generations and propogations which are the delights of all men in their natural birth (professor and profane) all these I say have I forsaken for Christs sake; and I have already received an hundred fold in this present time according as the holy Son of God promised in the day of his first appearance; and much more abundantly a death to the man of sin have I found, a total spoiling of the strong mans goods and redemption

from the bondage of corruption; which is that Sordid propensety or ardent desire of copulation with women: which has not been understood in that sense for many ages but now is made manifest to all them that believe and obey the Gospel which God has commilled to my trust. I daily feel a fountain of love, life, joy and heavenly glory flowing in my soul like a river of living waters; pure and clean my soul is constantly replenished with rich supplies from the heavenly glories; and my heart incessantly flows with charity and benevolence to all mankind: with a broken heart God has blessed me; and the image of the Lord of glory is formed in my Soul: plenty of the dew of heaven is distilled in my Soul from day to day and the divine nature doth infold me like a delightful sea of pleasent waters full of glory. What think ye if I were to such friends in this world? Should I not cleave to my own blood? Should I not make you the objects of my first pursuit? But I am weaned from all terrestrial connections; and in lieu thereof I have joined the host of heaven: with open vision do I behold the angelic company of the spiritual world: and join the melodious songs of the new Jerusalem. Why tell ye me of your increasing and multiplying after the flesh

your vessels are marred in the potters hand and they must be made over again by regeneration or go down to the pit. Say ye it is a command to increase and multiply but I say it never was a command to corrupt the earth and fill it with a double condemnation; and then plead the command of God to increase and multiply as though you had been doing his will.. God has given me the power to increase and multiply in its true typical and evangelical sense which I go forth to do: I have begotten many thousands of children and replenished them with many good things; I hate your fleshly lives as I hate the smoke of the bottomless pit; and your pleading the command of God to increase and multiply to cover your doleful corruptions; and inverting the order of heaven. Think ye that I will look towards you while you live after the flesh defiling yourselves with effeminate desires and profaning the command of God for a cover, it is in my power indeed to help you greatly in a temporal sense and many others who live as corrupt lives as you do this day; as much without God in the world; but be it known unto you all men I never will do it except you forsake your wicked lives and serve the living and true God; which I have no expectation you will do if I should nourish and cherish you as a tender Father does his Children. Stay in England till you go down into your graves as long as you are for following natural generation and the course of this world: I know that your

greatest oppression is your living after the flesh which is your own choosing; and is the very reason why I do not help you tho I have it in my power. stay with your looking towards me for help since you are sunk in my soul for your disobedience to God and your lying hopes that you are in favour with him while you corrupt the law and trample the Gospel under foot: were it so indeed that you had it in your heart to turn to God and obey the Gospel; I would look towards you with charity and compassion and would take care of you soul and body; but that is far from you and it is in your heart to enlarge your liberties after the flesh; and to provide livings for yourselves and posterity: therfore you are but a stink in my nostrils: instead of your having the pardon of your sins you are deceived and I feel that you are powerless alienated from the life of God and becom carnal sensual and unwise therefore as you have chosen your own ways: see what the God you serve will do for you and your false hopes what they will bring you to. All we that are of that one community that worship God in spirt and rejoice in Christ Jesus being seperated from all effeminate desires and sensual pleasures are in possession of the only hope of eternal life: my God has delivered redeemed my soul filled it with heavenly glory and the power of an endless life as well as made me able to help many in a temporal sense and you might have been sharers with me. ~~As therefore you~~

in all this unmerited manificence had you obeyed the gospel with me
ets therefore you have forsaken God so also I forsake you; and will never
give you any encouragement to come into this land till once for all
you resolve to turn to God and obey the Gospel. I feel the compassion
of God to warn you What you are loosing in this great day of the
second appearance of the son of man; you are loosing no less than
the only means of Salvation that ever will be offered again in this
world. The power of the gospel does prosper in my soul in bowels
of charity and compassion for the poor lost children of men:
and I would that you would be warned by a faithful friend not to
withstand the day of Gods final visitation for the sake of your false
hopes which will leave your souls desolate and barren: or for the
fading things of this life which are but vanity and vexation of
spirit. O that you would hearken for there is the same door open
for your escape as for the rest of the children of men; at which door if
you enter I feel to receive you with charity: and the severity of this
letter is the charity of God for your Souls; and his abhorrence
of your false hopes.

A Funeral Song

O blesed loving dear sweet one
My soul my Soul my Soul shall praise thy name
O living God of endless grace
My Soul shall ever praise thee

O blesed loving dear sweet friends
Our Brother S has gone to his eternal home
Let us prepare to follow him
Be righteous and be holy.

Why should we not fight while our armour,s so bright
Why should we not hold the wicked world in disdain
When the kingdom of heaven is our gain is our gain
O yea we will fight while our armour,s so bright
And ye will hold the wicked world in disdain
For the kingdom of Heaven to obtain to obtain
For the kingdom of Heaven to obtain.

O lead me and guide me O Lord I pray
O lead me and guide me in thy holy way

O the way of God is all together lovely
So love so love so lovely.

In yonders valley there grows sweet union
Let us arise and drink our fill
The winters past and the spring appears
The turtle dove is in our land.

O the Sons and the Daughters of Zion, shall walk in valleys of love. They shall grow like a watered garden, they shall flourish like the rose. I long to go to Zion; to see that happy company, where salvation leads me and where the heavens dwell.

Why did you choose this narrow way
Which all mankind despise
It was to purge my soul from sin
And gain the heavenly prize
Why could you find no other way
That would have done as well
Nay any other way but this
Would lead me down to hell
Well tell me how you did begin
To purge away your dross
By honestly confessing sin
And taking up my cross
Was it before the son of man
You brought your deeds to light
That was the mortifying plan
And truly it was right
Well did you not keep something back
Or did you tell the whole
I told it all however black
I fully freed my soul.
Do you expect to persevere
And every evil shun

My daily cross I mean to bear
Untill the work is done

Well is it now your full intent
All damage to restore

If any man I've wronged in ought
I'll freely give him four

Well ~~what~~ what is now the greatest foe
With which you mean to war

The cursed flesh is ~~all~~ that you know
All faithful souls abhor

Have you none of this sly deceit
Now lurking in your breast

I say there's nothing on my mind
But what I have confessed

Well what you have proclaimed abroad
If by your works you show

You are prepared to worship God
Go at it you may go.

A Poem on the Character of old Slug.

1st One lately speaking of a slug
The epithet came in so snug
My fruitful muse began to think
How it in poetry would link
etc I conceive it is no harm
To paraphrase upon the term
Come on my muse and show said I
To whom this title will apply
2nd The depth of language I have dug
To find the meaning of a slug
And must conclude upon the whole
It means a stupid lifeless soul
Whose object is to live at ease
And his own carnal nature please
Who always had some selfish Quirk
In sleeping eating and at work.
3rd A lazy fellow it implies
Who in the morning hates to rise
When all the rest are up at four
He wants to sleep a little more

When others into meeting swarm
He keeps his nest so good and warm
And some times when the Sisters come
To make the bed and sweep the room
4th Who do they find wraps up so snug
O who is it but Mr Slug
A little cold or aching head
Will send him grunting to his bed
And he,ll conceit hers sick or sore
So that he may indulge the more
Nor would it seem much like a crime
If he should sleep one half the time
5th When he gets up against hers dres,t
He,s so fatigued he has to rest
And half an hour he keeps his chair
Before he takes the morning air
He,ll sit and keep himself composed
Untill the trumpe for breakfast blows
His breakfast time at length is past
He has to wait another blast
6th So at the sound of the last shell
He takes his seat and all is well.

He cant eat all his breakfast then
But makes it out at half past ten
And again he thinks it Quite to soon
To eat his dinner all at noon
And as the feast is always free
He takes a smack at half past three
7th To save his credit you must know
That poor old slug eats very slow
And as in justice he does hate
To have the rest on him to wait
Some times he has to rise and kneel
Before he has made out his meal
Then to make out what hes miss,d
He takes a luncheon in his fist
8th Or turns again unto the dish
And fully satisfies his wish
He goes to supper with the rest
But lest his stomach be oppress
He saves at least a piece of bread
Till just before he goes to bed
So last of all the wretched slug
Has room to drive another plug.

9th When call'd to work you'l always ~~see~~ find
The lazy fellow lags behind
He has to end some useless chat
To light his pipe or hunt his hat
So all the rest are busy found
Before old slug gets on the ground
Then he must stand and take his wind
Before he is ready to begin
10th And every time he straits his back
He's sure to make some useless clack
And tho all others hate the slug
With folded arms himself will hug
When he concludes that time is near
He listens for the trump to hear
And when it sounds it is his rule
The first of all to drop his tool .
11th And if he's spirit in any case
It will be in his homeward pace
In his devotion he is known
To be the same poor lazy drone
The sweetest songs believers find
Makes no impression on his mind

And round the fire herd rather nod
Than labor in the works of God
12th Some vain excuse he'l always plead
That he from worship may be freed
He's bruis'd his heel or stub'd his toe
And cannot into meeting go
And if he comes he's half — asleep
So no good thing from him we reap
He'l labor out A song or two
And so conclude that that will do
13th And well the faithful may give thanks
When poor old slug has left the ranks
When the spectators are address'd
Then is the time for slug to rest
From his high lot he cant be hurl'd
So feet towards the wicked world
So slug will set with closed eyes
Untill the congregation rise
14th As he for union does not care
He'l sing and labor any where
And often give the world offence
With his unmortified sense.

This stupid soul in all his drift
Is still behind in every gift
With other souls he dont unite
Nor is he Zealous to do right
13th Among believers he's a drug
And every Elder hates a slug
When long forbearance is the theme
A warm believer he would seem
So different tastes give generous scopes
And he is full of faith and hopes
But talk about one fixed rule
And his high Zeal youl quickly cool
16th Indulge him then in what is wrong
And slug will try to move along
Nor will he his own state mistrust
Untill he grows so full of lust
His cross he will no longer tug
Then to the world goes poor old slug
Now if old slug is in the room
No doubt he hates to hear his doom
17th And here says he I plainly see
There can remain no place for me

Where souls begin to join in one
It is high time that I was gone
Amen old slug we jointly say
We do not want you here to stay
Your name is bad we all do know
Just leave us then and you may go
And in this all important place
We do not wish to see your face.

Conclusion.

A slugish nature may possess
Some good beleivers more or less.
Nor need one honest soul be scar,d.
If from Gods kingdom its debar,d
Against this nature we must war
His very name we must abhor
Then more and more we,ll be releas,d
From this old nasty useless beast
Till at that state we all arrive
Where no such drones are in the hive

R M N.

No way of escape.

1st The prophets of old by the spirit have foretold
Of a time that the saints should begin
The kingdom to posess and in truth and righteousness
Bring the world into judgment for sin
And the nations should rise and the judgment despise
And should gather around them to fight
But no weapon they should form that should prosper in a storm
For the work shall be out of their sight

2nd The work is now begun, and gathered one by one
Till Zions foundation is laid
But fishers must be sent, and hunters that can scent
Of the holes as the prophets has said
Tho, Thousands of late have lamented their state
And have pray,d for the Son to appear
But when he is reveal,d they lay closely conceal,d
Or fly from his presence with fear

3rd Gods fishers are come and the net gathers some
While others escape in their sins
But his hunters are out and will chase them about
While they cleave to their old heaven friends

Al. tho you should fly like a bird to the sky
Or leap like a buck in a fright
Tho. you hide like a fox in the holes of the rocks
Your deeds you shall bring to the light
4th. Your mad river flight has not been out of sight
Nor your stan-town battery of Sea-horn
Your white water pilot will burn you so hot
That you, I wish you had never been born
Your springfield strong hold with its warriors so bold
In the regions of darkness are cast
You may fortify Canceridge and lay stone for your Bridge
But your morter, s untempered at last
5th. If Kentucky grows so hot you may seek another spot
For a season to cover your sin
But it is a poor relief to be flying like a thief
With a conscience tormented with sin
You may go to the Wabash to find ease to the flesh
But Busro is all in a flame
You may flee to Elber duck or tarry in Kentuck
But the gospel will bring you to shame
6th. If you hide in Tennessee we shall find where you be
For the Lord has a sacrifice there

And the shakers are not slack but as true upon the track
As a hunter in chase of a hare
Al tho you may boast of the strength of your host
And forbid us to pass thro, your land
When once you get a sight of a true Israelite
Your spirit no longer can stand
7th Tho, you dig into hell and say you are doing well
Yet the arrows of vengeance are there
Tho, on carmel you hide and have Baal on your side
You just flee from a lion to a bear
If to heaven you climb to find ease for a time
From thence you shall surely be cast
Al tho you should flee to the bottom of the Sea
There, s a serpent will bite you at last
8th There is no other way of escaping this day
Where the gospel is open so clear
But to part with your lust and be honest and just
And to such will the Saviour appear
But those that stand out shall be driven about
Till the saints in full order shall stand
Then the end shall come about and transgressors rooted out
And the meek shall inherit the land.

9th Tho the work is just begun how men begin to run
To flee from the wrath of the Lamb
But the work will still increase till there cannot be a place
On the globe for a sinner to stand
Tho, the world scoff and say this can never be the way
Tis a plan of the shakers tis clear
Well it is a shakers plan but the shakers not a man.
For God the eternal is here
10th Now my song I,ll conclude lest I,m judg,d to be rude
In a fit of fenatic display
But it truly is not so for tis not the half I know
Of the end of the world in this day
But now as I close one thing I purpose
To the soul that salvation would find
No longer put your trust in a man that lives in lust
For how can the blind lead the blind.

Issachar Bates.

Let every one our own ways shun
They lead to desolation
Tho they seem like milk and cream
They yield us tribulation
But O the cross does bring no loss
It never will defile us
If it we bear and always wear
It will surely reconcile us.

Robbery.

1st
Will a man rob God
Said the prophets of old
Can the sons of the whore
Be so wicked and bold
This question is answered
The thing has been done
We have witness'd the fate
Since the last setting sun

2nd
The Church was beset
By a black painted band
With candles and clubs
And their pistols in hand
Twelve strokes of the clock
Told the dark silent hour
When these wretches came rushing
Like wolves to devour.

3rd
With their pistols presented
They enter'd each room
Crying give us your money
Or death is your doom

Beset by such monsters
Determin'd to kill
Our good Elder Brethren
All drove to be still

4th
With threats and manaces
They searched around
The chests they broke open
And took all they found
Till a chair from the garret
Struck one on the head
Then the stairs they descended
And hastily fled

5th
Ye lucrative monsters
Ye fiends in disguise
How great was your trouble
How small was your prize
How careful kind heaven
Your scheme to defeat
And how thankful the saints
When they saw you retreat.

By their faith and obedience
The nations they foil,
And increase their good treasure
While thieves cannot steal.

Such mischievous wretches
Let Statesmen pursue
Believers have got,
Something better to do

Every Idle Word.

1st
If every idle word
I must account to God,
Or feel his chastening rod;
How watchful I should be!
A bridle for my tongue,
To curb it while I'm young,
Is surely one among
The needful things for me.

2nd
Then I'll labor to refrain
From every thing that vain,
And strive this gift to gain,
To think before I speak:
My words I'll ponder well,
No idle stories tell,
All such like stuff repel;
For wisdom is not weak.

3rd
When I am off my guard,
Old nature presses hard,
My progress to retard,
And bring me into loss.
If I redemption find,
I must this nature bind,
And leave its trash behind,
By virtues of the cross.

4th
O could I hear the young
Resolve to curb their tongue,
And in the truths be strong,
It would delight my ears!
What honor they might gain,
What victory obtain,
If they would but refrain
From foolish jests and jeers!

5th
I know it can be done,
And I'm resolved for one,
All idle talk to shun,
And quell my forward sense.
While I have breath to spend,
My tongue shall never offend
A single gospel friend.
'Tis sin to give offence.

Jan 15. 52

Dear brethren and sisters in Christ
Eldrs Antoinette in particular.

I am impressed, my dear sister to drop you a line, as I am refreshing myself at the Oasis of the Desert, and to recruit my energies, and replenish my cans with living waters from the springs of everlasting life that flow fast ~~from~~ the city of God. Eldrs Anna informs me that she forwarded the Note to you, that I wrote her on Jan 1. From that, you saw the cause of my not writing you. I have indeed travelled through the deep waters of tribulation, which the Lord shows me was for a two-fold object, namely to refine my body and spirit in the furnace, as gold is refined, to prove me, whether I possessed sufficient of the pure metal, to manifest to all whether I was Gold or Pinchbeck. Had I corresponded to the latter, I should have absorbed more drops than I gave.

out, and therefore I would have been less fit for use, than before I was submitted to the crucible. But I came out purer than I went in for not a particle of any evil, which was there displayed, wants adhere to me for a moment. The second object was to open my eyes to the grosh darkness and iniquity that exists in this favoured land. Altogether it was a great school to me, because my heavenly Teacher was at my right-hand to shew me the spiritual correspondence of all natural evil, and the only method by which the human race can be extricated from the Bottomless Pit My mind has been greatly opened to spiritual things, and I have learned that the Free Masons are Spiritualists, and this Spiritual movement in any of its phases, is the opening ~~of the mouth~~ to the world, the seals of masonry, for the mystery of God is now to be clearly

revealed to all, and as it was expressed in those communications, not only the secrets of all hearts are to be made known, but the secrets of all orders and societies, and then the kingdom can indeed come in its fullness and the glory of the Lord fill the earth. I feel that I have another dark door to go through before I can see clearly the true celestial arcana of the heavens, and bring down such inspirations and power as will enable all to see eye to eye. Then I think I shall be a qualified instrument to edit the "Wisdom Age" The Masons in Boston retained those articles I wrote at Lebanon and also the handkerchief given me be Eldress Eliza. I am impressed that I shall be obliged to come to Lebanon before many weeks to consult with the Leaders and Ministry with regard to many things which I cannot well commit to paper. My health is very good, but I am kept by spiritual influence on a very low diet consisting chiefly of fruit.

Jan 1st 1859.

My dear Mother in Israel
and brothers and sisters in Christ

On the opening of the New year how my heart throbs with emotions of gratitude and praise to the great Author of all God that I have been preserved thro' the fiery trial, which I presume was necessary to refine my spirit from the dross of corruption and reflect more perfectly the divine image. When I went to Boston last Spring, I went among the spiritualists, who were just organizing themselves into a united interest. I felt that I had a special mission to them, and they seemed much interested in my communications, but expressed themselves as being on a much higher plain than any thing they had had, and seemed at a loss to comprehend the full import of them. I was thrown into the abnormal condition, and prophecied of the judgment, and opened the seals of Revelation which proved to them, that I must be influenced by no less a spirit, than the Lion of

the tribe of Juda for he only was to have the power to open the Seals. Some of the most sublime and solemn utterances came from my lips that ever fell upon the ear. It was as astonishing to myself, as to others. At length heaven seemed to open and the pearly gates of the New Jerusalem appeared to my view I cannot begin to describe what I saw and felt.

Suffice it to say, the Masons deemed me insane and I was taken to the City Prison an initiated into the Masonic mysteries, which opened the degrees of the mind to the science of ~~the~~ correspondencies which was the mode of inspiration in the Norchian church, and which has been preserved to some extent in Masonic temples to the present day. In their darkened chambers, is where the two witnesses have prophecied in sackloth [redacted] during all ages. I was then taken to the Lunatic Asylum to be taken thro the degrees of the powers of darkness, in order to get the key of the bottomless pit. I was confined with raving maniacs for about 10 months. But it

seemed to me I was encompassed about by a guard of Angels that prevented the arrows of those demons that filled the place. My brother tried to procure my release more than 6 months ago but could not. I was not permitted to correspond with any of my friends, not even my children. My husband left the form the day I went thro that dreadful scene, and was with me much of the time. I will have a lengthy chapter to relate when I see you.

Sophronia.

I feel to resign every thing to the direction of true inspiration, and realize that there can be no sure progress, but by passive obedience to the Divine Will.

It will require great decision and firmness to withstand the opposing elements among the unregenerate, and unless I keep my union firm and unbroken to the true vine, I shall lose the protection of that class of influences that are sent to lift up the fallen race from degredation and woe.